



## COMMISSION ON AGING

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### COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes  
June 15, 2015

**PRESIDING:** Peter Brunner, Chair

**Members Attending**

Angela Boyter  
Roxanne Farrar  
Deborah Fleischmann  
Susan Hailman  
Jan Horan  
Bob McLaughlin  
Andrew Monjan  
Eletta Morse  
S.K. Shin  
Sharonlee Vogel  
Laureen Wylie

**Not Present**

Barbara Catlin  
Julia Mattis  
Carolyn Rimes

**Office on Aging**

Starr Sowers

**Department of Citizen Services**

Phyllis Madachy

**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

**Approve Agenda**

Sharonlee Vogel moved to accept the agenda and Roxanne Farrar seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Agenda accepted.*

**Approve Minutes**

Sharonlee Vogel moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting and Bob McLaughlin seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Minutes accepted.*

**Regional Partnership for Health System Transformation**

Pete Brunner shared a write up of Howard County General Hospital's Regional Partnership for Health System Transformation. The Commission has been asked to supply a representative to the social needs core group. Interested Commissioners should email Pete directly. Eletta Morse indicated interest in one of the more health related cores.

**Remarks from Department of Citizen Services**

The new director of the Department of Citizen Services, Phyllis Madachy, brought updates on the future of the Department and on the Office of Aging. Phyllis acknowledged that it is still unknown what changes, if any, would take place in the Department. Potential changes could require

legislation and cooperation from state government. The Commission discussed the structure of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services as an example for Howard County.

The Commission also asked what Phyllis believed the Commission's role was with the Department and two key items were identified: assist with implementing the recommendations in the forthcoming master plan and help think through the potential structure changes.

### **Office on Aging Report**

Starr Sowers shared that the Office had submitted its Comprehensive Area Plan to the Maryland Department of Aging.

### **Program & Staffing Updates**

The Office is looking to open another branch of the Kindred Spirits Program at North Laurel 50+ Center. The proposed program would operate two days a week.

Two staff positions have been approved for the 50+ Fitness Center at Ellicott City, a front desk staff person and a contingent exercise specialist.

The Office is exploring decentralizing MAP and moving MAP staff members into each of the centers.

The 50+ EXPO is filling quickly; nearly 75% of the vendor tables are already taken.

### **Senior Housing**

Eletta Morse continued to educate the Commission on Senior Housing Options, this time discussing assisted living facilities.

### **Governmental Affairs Committee Report**

Following the Committee's meeting with the County Executive, they were to look at the structure of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. The Committee reached out to Montgomery County and asked for a chance to meet with both their Commission on Aging and their Area Agency on Aging (AAA). Pete Brunner emailed a list of questions and their AAA responded for both organizations. The Committee will meet again to formulate a response to Montgomery County as their email raised some additional questions.

### **MGA Conference**

Angie Boyter shared her experiences attending the Maryland Gerontological Association's annual conference. Favorite sessions included Choosing Wisely, Intimacy and Sexuality for Seniors, and the interactive performers. MGA will be emailing a link for handouts and Angie will share the link with the Commission.

### **MDCOA Report**

Sharonlee Vogel shared that a final date has been selected for the MDCOA Conference, which will be held September 24 at Chesapeake College.

Sharonlee also provided some information on two presentations given to the MDCOA, one on the Latino Health Initiative in Montgomery County and the other on Behavioral Economics.

### **Old Business**

None

**New Business**

Pete asked that Commissioners come to the July meeting prepared to discuss the COA's booth at the 50+EXPO and what the focus of the outreach effort should be.

**Adjournment**

Sharonlee Vogel motioned to adjourn. Bob McLaughlin seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Recording Secretary: Jennifer Rittenhouse

Next Meeting: July 20, 2015, Ellicott City Senior Center Annex, 7pm